

Saddleback Marathon Re-routed

Saturday, November 7, 2026

The full marathon is an out-and-back that begins on Black Star Canyon Road. The course follows the creek into the canyon on a relatively flat truck trail (with a slight gain) for approximately 2.5 miles. At the falls turnoff, the course switchbacks up into the Mariposa Reserve, where it continues up toward the top for ocean and Inland Empire views. From The Doppler on N. Main Divide, runners make it to Skyline Dr. where they run into Corona and turn around to return to the finish. The elevation gain for the marathon is about 4,244'.

The half marathon begins in the same location. Runners also follow the creek into the Black Star Canyon, and then switchback up into the Mariposa Reserve. The course continues up the truck trail past the historic Indian village, adding a few more switchbacks with spectacular canyon views. About a mile shy from the top, the course tuns around and returns to the Finish. Elevation gain for the half marathon is about 1,773'.

The 10k begins the same as the full and half marathons. Though the 10k course is mostly "flat" (with a slight gain), runners will climb some "quick", steep switchbacks up Black Star Canyon Road for a scenic view looking back into the canyon. From there, the course returns to the Finish. Elevation gain for the 10k is about 706'.

New Distance! 25k – Same as marathon without going into Corona. The full 25k course is to the doppler on N. Main Divide and back. This course won't disappoint, with approximately 2,517' of elevation gain.

ON THE RUN

Black Star Canyon, Silverado, CA, Cleveland National Forest

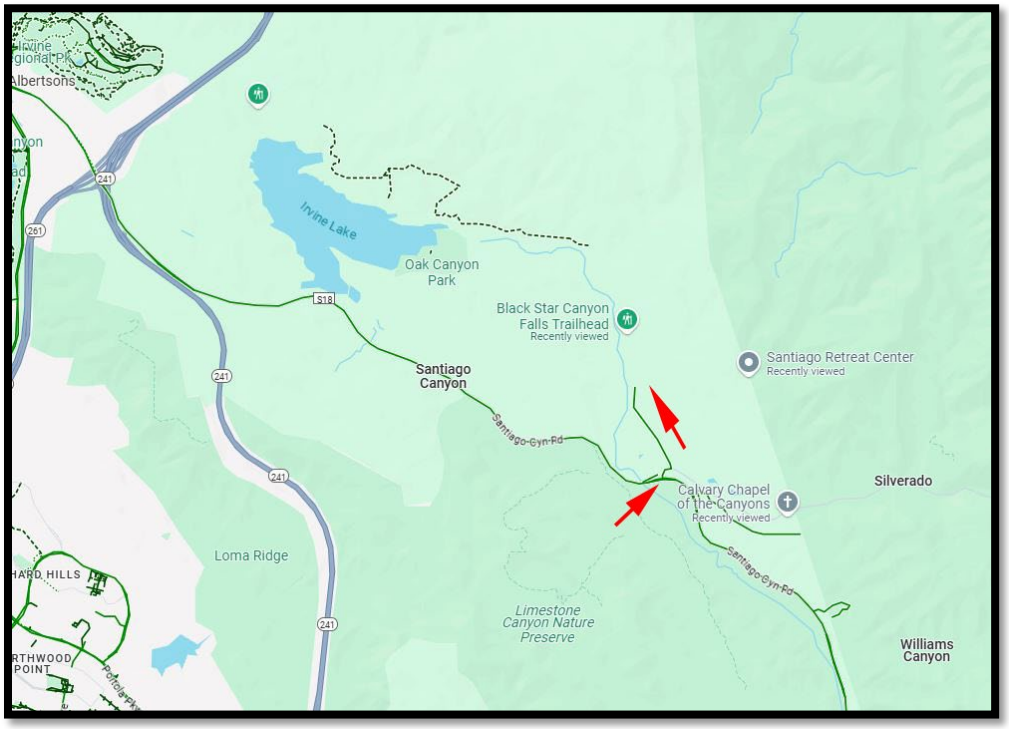
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Race Details

Location

Black Star Canyon, Silverado, Cleveland National Forest. Take Santiago Canyon Road from El Toro Road, the toll roads, or the city of Orange (E. Chapman Avenue becomes Santiago Canyon Road). Turn onto Silverado Canyon Road (on the left from Orange/Toll roads, on the right from El Toro Road). From Silverado Canyon Road, take an immediate left onto Black Star Canyon Road. Drive to the end to park near the forest gate. The Start/Finish and portable restrooms will be set up at the Forest gate.



Marathon, 25k, Half Marathon, 10k

Includes race day shirt, beanie, finish line snacks, finisher medal, and special awards for top three overall finishers.

Check-in	5:30 - 7:00 am
Race Briefing	7:20 am
Start	7:30 (8:00 am for the 10k)

Race Details (continued)

Aid Stations

Distances are close approximates:

AS 1: 3.1 miles, 10k turnaround

AS 2: 6.6 miles just past Mariposa Reserve,, 1/2 marathon turnaround

AS 3: 7.5 miles, Black Star Cyn Rd / N. Main Divide junction

AS 4: 8 miles, near Doppler, 25k turnaround

AS 5: 8.5 miles Black Star Cyn Rd / N. Main Divide junction

AS 6: 13.1 miles Skyline bottom, marathon turnaround, then marathoners hit all the aid stations again (listed above, except for the doppler AS 4)

Electrolytes and calories supplied at aid stations: salty and sweet.

Cut-Offs

Marathon runners must reach the turnaround at the bottom of Skyline Drive in Corona (Aid Station 6) by 12:00 noon. Runners need to travel at least 3 miles an hour to reach the cut-off in time.

25K runners must arrive to the Doppler AS 4 by 10:30 am.

Drops

Runners who drop from the race must inform a race official. If you do not, you may be liable for search and rescue costs.

Early Start (full marathon &25k only)

Request by email lauren@otrraces.com. For slow runners only, 1 week prior to Start. Early Start runners not eligible for special awards.

Electrolytes

Electrolytes provided at the aid stations.

Elevation Gain

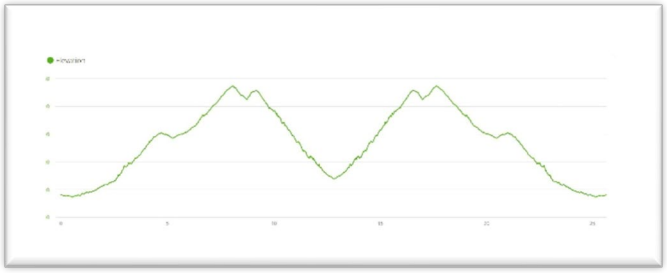


Fig. 1 Marathon 4,244' Gain

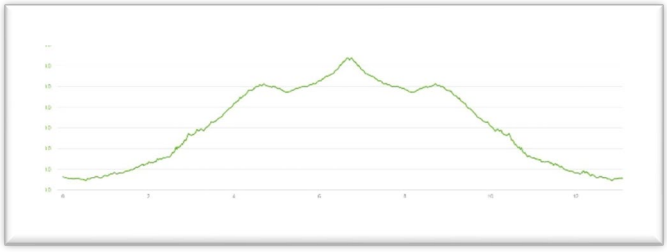


Fig. 2 Half Marathon, 1,773’ Gain

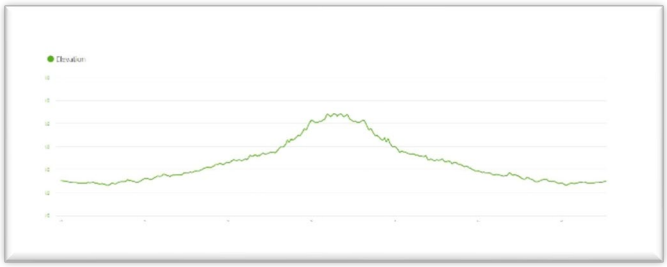


Fig. 3 10k 706' Gain

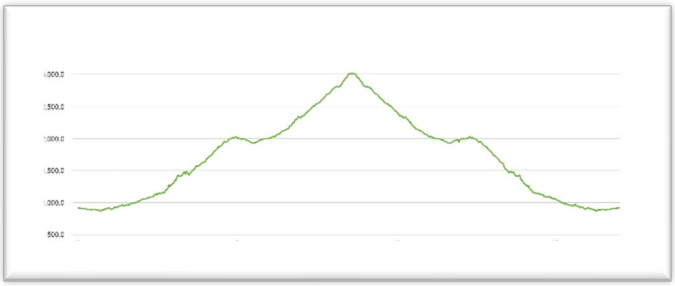


Fig. 4 25k 2,517’ Gain

First Aid

Aid stations will be equipped with first aid kits.

Headphones/earbuds
Headphones are allowed, keep low enough to hear runners or mountain bikers approaching from behind. Please no speakers.

Hiking/trekking poles
Allowed

Levelling Down
Runners may level down during the race. In other words, runners may change to a shorter race. For example, the marathon distance may level down to the 25k, ½ marathon or 10K distances. Inform the aid station crew if you level down. Runners who level down during the race are not eligible for special awards.

Markings
The route will be marked with colorful ties. The route is straightforward. There are a couple of places to cut the course. Don't do it. Stay on the truck trail, there is no single track on the course.

Pacers
Not Allowed

Prizes
Special prizes for top three overall in each distance.

Race Day Registration
Allowed. Cash or Zelle only.

Refunds
This race does not allow refunds. Race entries will be applied to the following year's race should the Saddleback Marathon race get cancelled due to circumstances beyond the race director's control (fire, government shutdown, etc.). First choice is a reschedule/re-route.

Weather
Be sure to check the weather before arriving. The Santa Ana Mountains during November are usually mild. But November is an ambiguous month. So, it could get quite warm. On the other hand, there could be rain as well. ☺

Timing
TFID race chip timing by Fusion Timing.

Accommodations

Camping
Not available at this location.

Hotels/Motels
No hotels/motels in the near vicinity, unless perhaps an Airbnb. Below is a sample of the closest hotels.

Sky Palm Motel
12.5 miles from Start Line
210 N Tustin St, Orange

Orange Tustin Inn
13.6 miles from Start Line
639 S Tustin St, Orange

Villa Park Motel
14 miles from Start Line
2085 N Tustin St, Orange

JW Marriott, Anaheim Resort
18 miles from Start Line
1775 S Clementine St, Anaheim

Medical & Emergency Plan

Runner/Spectator Safety

Black Star Canyon Road, Leonard Rd (N. Main Divide), and Skyline Drive are closed to public vehicle traffic. However, these roads are open to the few residents who live on private property within the National Forest. Vehicles are rarely seen, but occasionally, residents or forest service personnel drive these roads. Signs will be placed to warn drivers that runners are on the road.

Emergency Access

Runners will park along Black Star Canyon Road where legally permissible. Runners and race crews will not block the trail, allowing for emergency access via Black Start Canyon in Silverado and Skyline Drive in Corona, at all times.

Emergency Phone #'s:

1. 9-1-1

2. US Forest Service Fire Station
27172 Silverado Canyon Rd
Silverado, CA 92676
(714) 649-2645

3. US Forest Service Fire Station
1148 E 6th St, Corona, CA 92879
(951) 371-1004

Medical Facilities:

Chapman Global Medical Center
2601 E Chapman Ave, Orange, (714) 633-0011

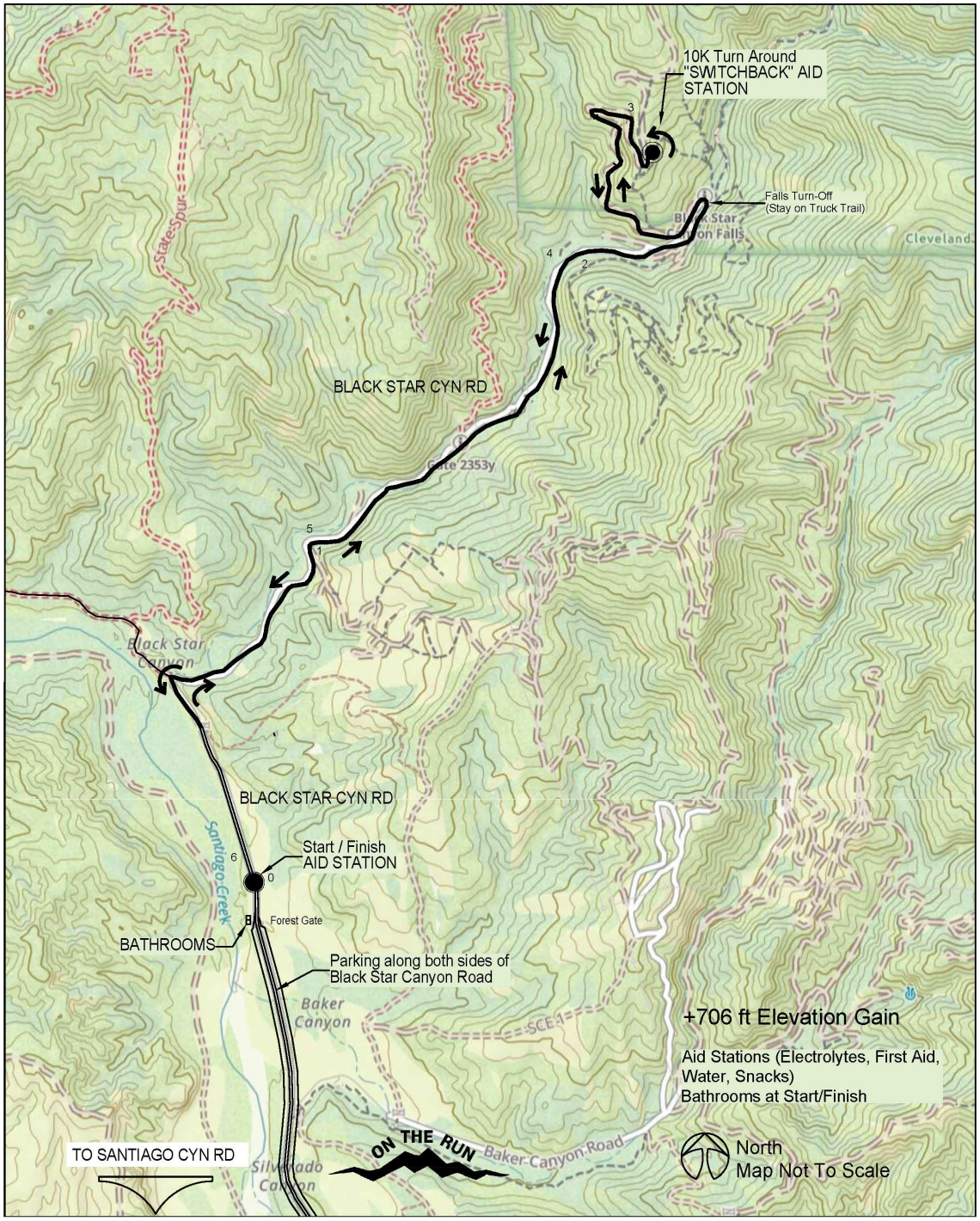
Directions to Chapman Medical Center (11 miles from start/finish):
Head S on Black Star Canyon Rd
Turn right onto Silverado Canyon Rd
Turn right onto Santiago Canyon Rd
Continue onto E. Chapman Avenue
(Pass by Wienerschnitzel on right)
Turn right into the center

Hoag Urgent Care & Family Medicine Orchard Hills
(Located in Orchard Hills Shopping Center) 3877 Portola Pkwy, Irvine, (949) 557-0720

Directions to Hoag Urgent Care (11 miles from start/finish):
Head S on Black Star Canyon Road
Turn right onto Silverado Canyon Road
Turn right on Santiago Canyon Road
Turn left onto CA-261S to Irvine (toll road)
Take exit 3 for Portola Pkwy and turn left.
Turn left onto Forge, stay right, center is on the right

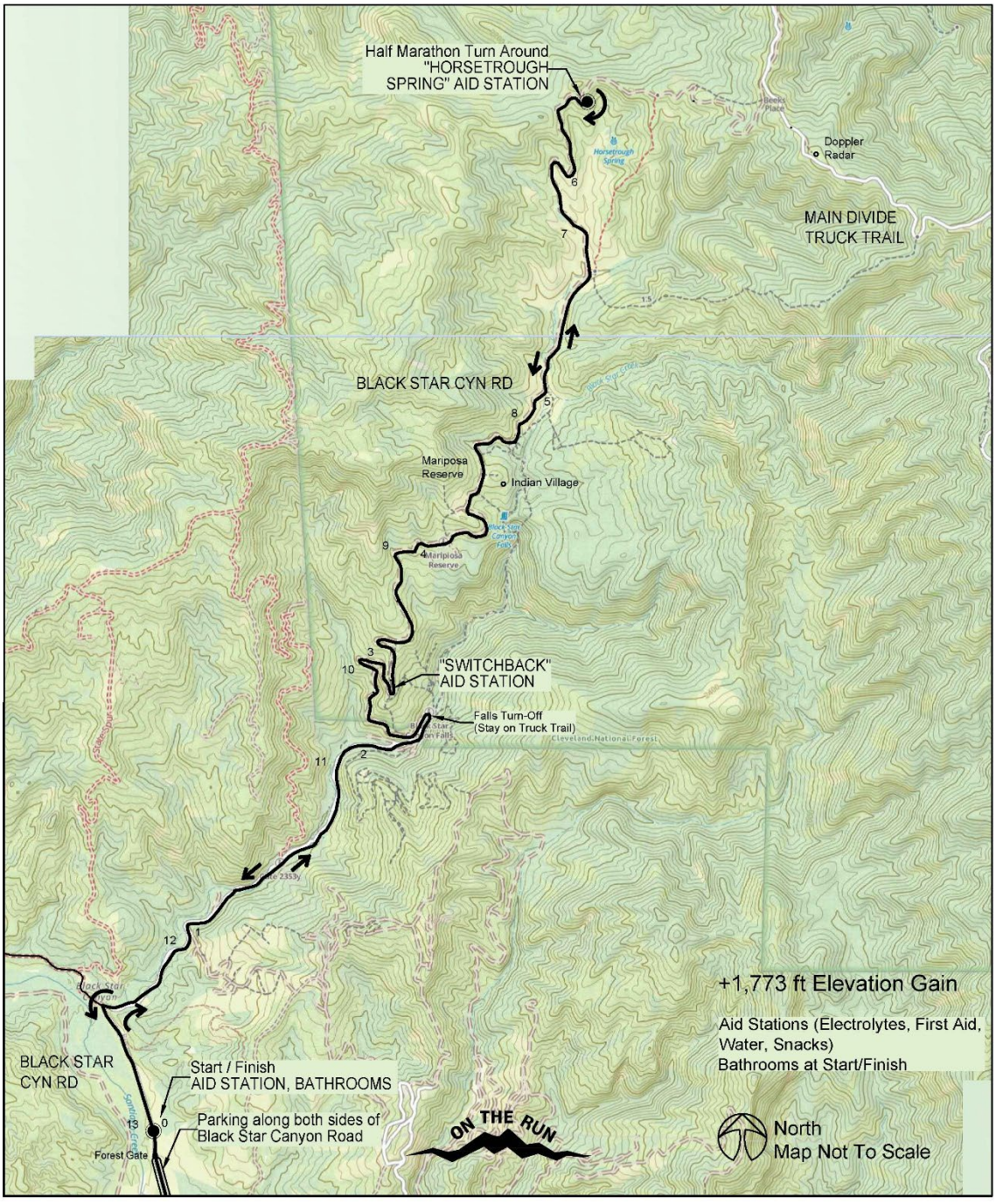
Maps

10K COURSE MAP

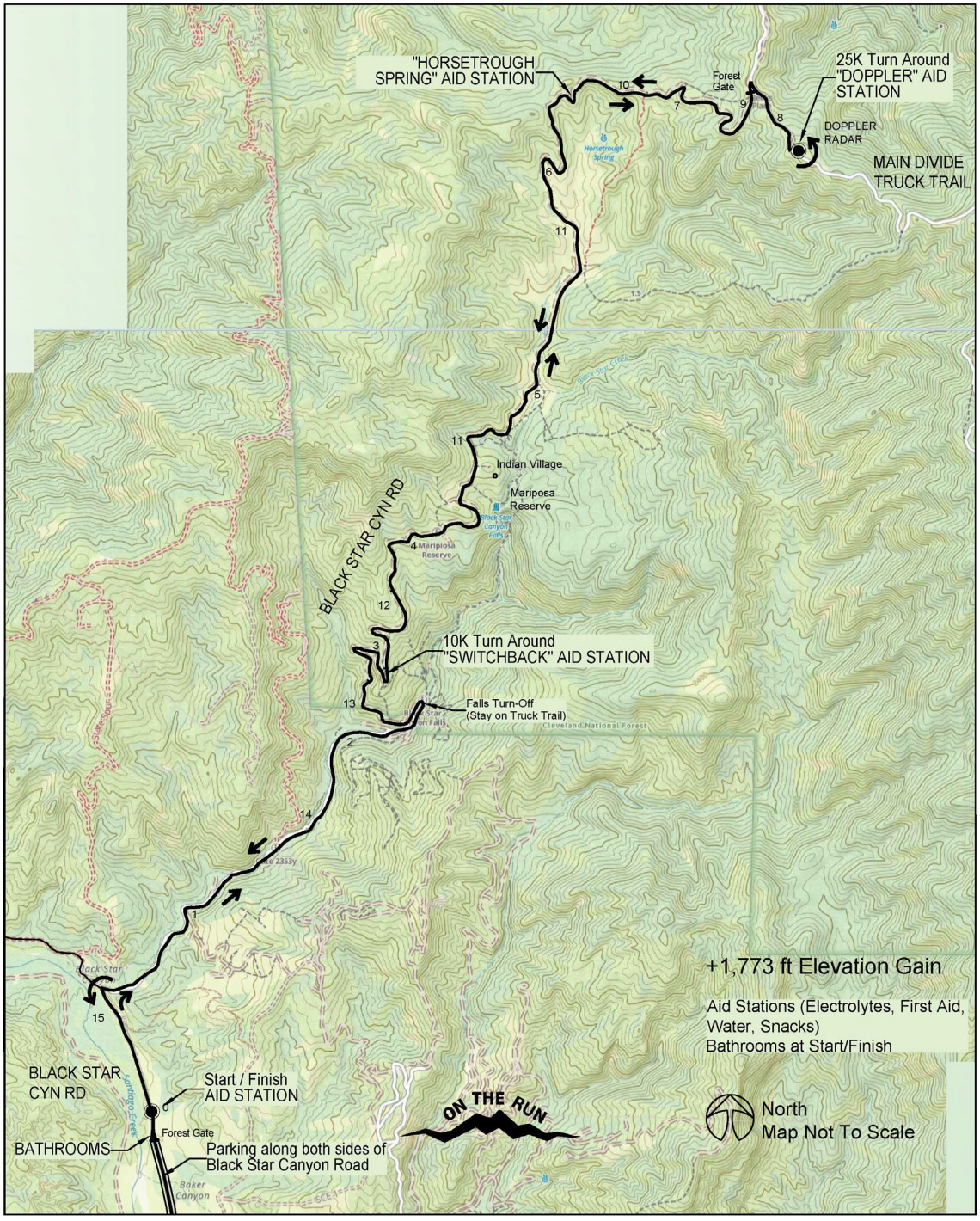


https://otrraces.com/saddleback-marathon

HALF MARATHON COURSE MAP

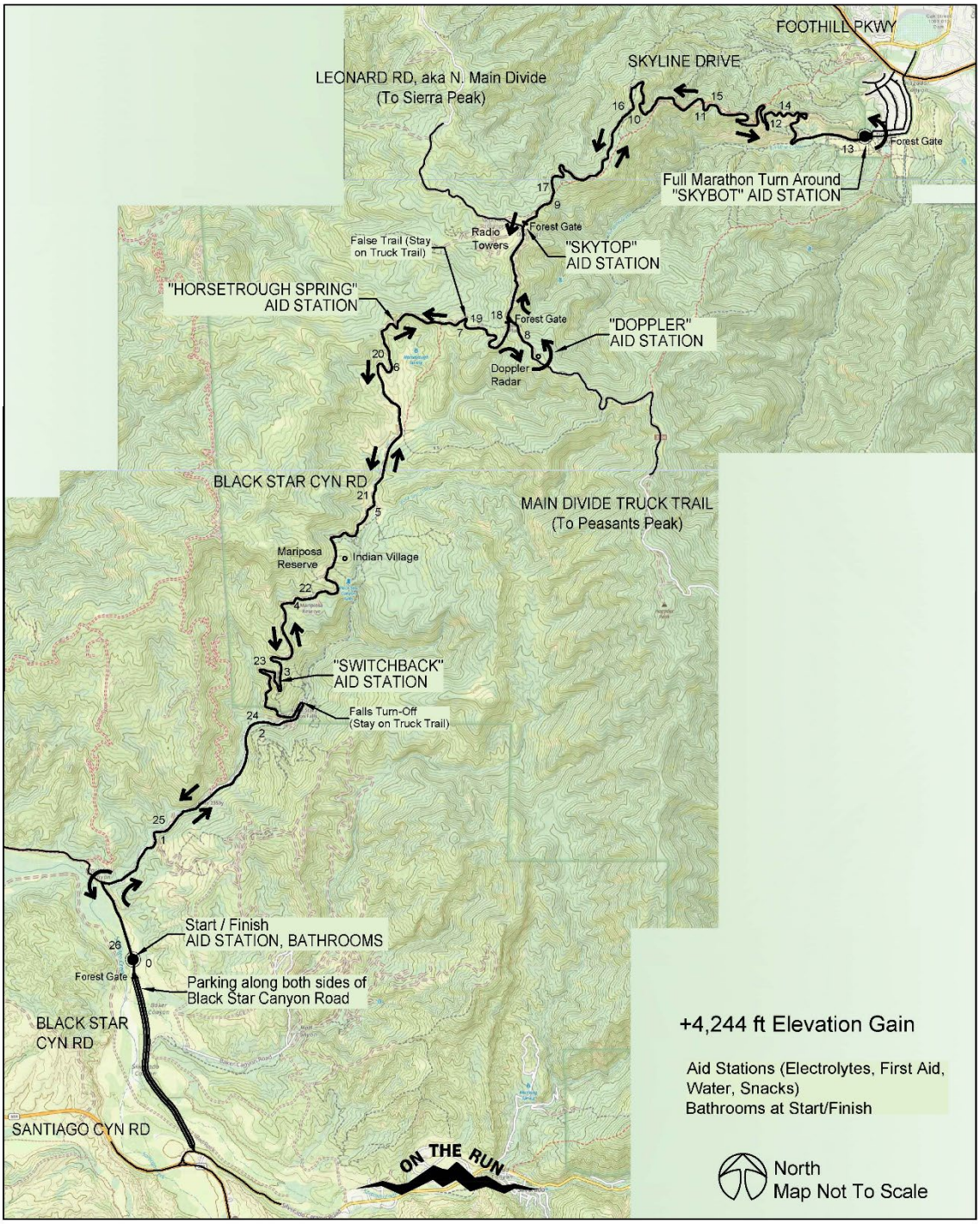


25K COURSE MAP



https://otrraces.com/saddleback-marathon

FULL MARATHON COURSE MAP



Parking

Park along Black Star Canyon Road, head-on or back-in. Parking is free; no permit is required.

Partners, Sponsors, Friends
























Leave No Trace

We are fortunate to run in these beautiful mountains. What goes into the forest with you must come out with you. Tread lightly and leave nothing but your footprint. PLEASE use the aid stations to dispose of your trash. Thank you!